

From: Demian
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 6:09am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Madams and Sirs,

I am writing to let my opinion as a citizen known about the Microsoft antitrust case.

As a person who depends on computers for my job, you might imagine that I have strong opinions about this case.

Over the past 12 years or so, I have noticed two clear trends in the "WinTel" computer industry:

- 1) computer hardware has become more reliable, faster and cheaper with more choices
- 2) computer software has become less reliable, less affordable, and with less choices

Economically - as a consumer and computer user - Microsoft's (now found to be) illegal business practices have hurt me this way. While the hardware market seems rife with cost-savings, innovation and competitive diversity, the software market is expensive, stagnant and utterly without innovation. And - of course - without robust software, the best hardware in the world is as useful as a door-stop.

It seems that anytime someone comes out with a new software concept that could truly return aggressive competition and new ideas to the software side of the equation (i.e., Java, QuickTime, OpenDoc, RealAudio, Netscape, Novell, etc.), Microsoft uses its illegally gained Monopoly to "embrace, make proprietary, or buy-out" such technologies.

I find it quite frustrating that Microsoft - which used illegal business practices to achieve much of its software dominance - is casually using such ill-gotten gains to achieve dominance in far-reaching markets such as News and Media, Entertainment and Gaming, and Cable/Telecommunications.

I must urge the DOJ to finally and permanently put a stop to the way in which Microsoft does business: mainly, using monopoly power in one market to create emerging monopolies in other markets.

Like any other guilty criminal entity, I would hope to see Microsoft punished and restrained from acting in a criminal manner in the future in order to bring balance and progression back to the U.S. Software industry. I am very concerned that the current settlement proposed by the DOJ is completely and woefully inadequate in this regard.

Thank you for allowing my input.

-Demian Rosenblatt

-San Francisco, California

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"Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication"